

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/PHL:RTWILLNER:PAW

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EA:AWHUMMEL, JR.

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L/EB:DBURNS

EB/ITP:OT:MWGLITMAN

EB/OT/GCP:DDUNFORD

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

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TAGS:EGEN, PFOR, RP

SUBJECT: ECONOMIC NEGOTIATIONS

REF: MANILA 5441

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM HUMMEL AND ALDRICH

1. INTERAGENCY MEETING HELD MAY 10 ON DRAFT TREATY AND
TRADE AGREEMENT, INCLUDING PROPOSED TARIFF ITEM PACKAGE.
AGENCIES HAD NOT BEEN ABLE COMPLETE REVIEW OF DRAFTS, WHICH
WERE THEREFORE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES MEETING THIS WEEK TO
BE FOLLOWED BY SECOND FULL INTERAGENCY MEETING MAY 17.
CHIEF PROBLEMS DISCUSSED WERE: (A) CONCERN THAT PREMATURE
ACTION ON SPECIAL LEGISLATION COULD UNDERMINE TRADE BILL,
ALTHOUGH IN RAISING POINT COMMERCE VOICED NO OBJECTION TO
PACKAGE ITSELF; AND (B) VIEW ADVANCED BY AGRICULTURE THAT
NO TRADE CONCESSIONS SHOULD BE MADE EXCEPT IN RETURN FOR
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OTHER TRADE CONCESSIONS. WE ARE CONTINUING TO WORK ON

BASIS THAT NEGOTIATING TEAM MUST BE IN MANILA BY EARLY JUNE
WITH INSTRUCTIONS IN HAND, BUT IT EVIDENT THIS WILL
PROBABLY REQUIRE FURTHER HIGH-LEVEL DECISIONS.

2. AS REGARDS CUBAN RATES, THESE ARE NOW IN EFFECT ONLY FOR
PHILIPPINES, ON BASIS OF LAUREL-LANGLEY AGREEMENT WHICH WENT
INTO EFFECT WHEN SPECIAL RATES STILL VALID FOR CUBA AND THUS
AVAILABLE TO PHILIPPINES UNDER AGREEMENT. THEY PROVIDE
REDUCTIONS OF ABOUT 20 TO 30 PER CENT IN TARIFFS ON CERTAIN
TROPICAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, PARTICULARLY SUGAR, PINE-
APPLES, FRUITS AND FRUIT PRODUCTS, AND MOLASSES. ESTI-
MATED TARIFF SAVINGS FOR PHILIPPINE TRADE ABOUT DOLS 4
MILLION PER YEAR, MOSTLY ON SUGAR. WITH EXPIRATION OF
LAUREL-LANGLEY THESE PREFERENTIAL RATES WILL CEASE TO BE IN
EFFECT FOR ANY REPEAT ANY COUNTRY. THEY COULD NOT BE
EXTENDED WITHOUT CONTRAVENING
U.S. POLICY ON PREFERENCES. WE AGREE THEREFORE THAT THESE
RATES ARE IRRELEVANT TO CURRENTLY PENDING NEGOTIATIONS.

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